

PUBLIC HEALTH VIEWS

by
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THE PHYSICIAN AND ACCIDENTAL POISONINGS

Accidental poisoning, particularly of the very young, is a substantial health problem that more often than not involves the physician.

Every year, approximately 100,000 reports of ingestion incidents are received by the National Clearinghouse for Poison Control Centers. Statistical breakdowns tell us that 87% are classified as accidents, and almost an identical percentage (86%) involves youngsters under the age of five years. But, large as these figures are, they do not take into account unreported poisonings, or those resulting from aspiration or contact.

In Utah the magnitude of the problem is great — in the neighborhood of 100 cases per month are reported.

The attention of physicians who may be confronted with emergency treatment of poison victims is called to recommendations of the Committee on Toxicology on *First-aid Measures for Poisoning*, report to the Council on Drugs, J.A.M.A. 165:686-687 (Oct. 12) 1957, and *Efficient Handling of Poisoning Emergencies* by T. George Bidder, M.D., and Irving Sunshine, Ph.D., Cleveland, J.A.M.A., Vol. 168, No. 5, (Oct. 4) 1958.

Numerous cases of accidental poisoning involve brand name substances commonly found in the average household. To be current in 1965, a check with either the Poison Information Center at the Dee Hospital in Ogden, or that at the Salt Lake County General Hospital in Salt Lake City can immediately eliminate much medical uncertainty and anxiety. Both centers maintain a current listing of all products containing toxic substances

"U" COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NEWS IN BRIEF

Deafness Research Grant Received

The University of Utah College of Medicine will begin vital research into the causes of deafness and other hearing disorders as a result of a special grant from the Deafness Research Foundation, Inc., of New York City.

The grant is composed of funds appropriated by the Deafness Research Foundation, which has been matched by a gift from the George S. Eccles and Delores Dore Eccles Foundation. It provides for the establishment of a temporal bone bank and research laboratory at the University of Utah Medical Center. The laboratory is expected to be in full operation by June 1965.

General Practice Review Postponed

The Annual General Practice Review originally scheduled for March 1-4, 1965, has been postponed until fall due to the delay in completion of the new Medical Center.

and antidotes specifically for the purpose of providing physicians with any information needed for emergency treatment at any hour of the day or night.

Physicians not only are qualified, but also they are often in a position to discuss with mothers and fathers of young children precautionary measures that could radically reduce the number of child poisonings.

Local public health staff — particularly public health nurses and sanitarians — are available to assist practicing physicians in evaluating a home hazard, or in establishing or following up protective measures that may be needed in home situations.

OBG EXAM SCHEDULED

Applications and letters of request from previous applicants requesting to be scheduled for the forthcoming Part I examination of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology to be given July 2, 1965 will be accepted in the Board office up until the closing date of February 28, 1965. Applications and letters of request post-marked after that date will be returned to the sender.

Application forms and Bulletins may be obtained by writing to the office of the Secretary — Clyde L. Randall, M.D., American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 100 Meadow Road, Buffalo, New York 14216.

Servicemen applying for the Part I examination are requested to submit the name of their Commanding Officer.

Diplomates of this Board are requested to keep the Board office informed of address changes.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

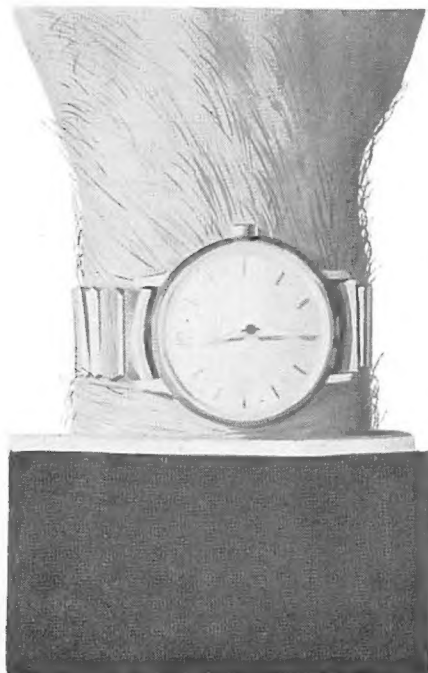
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